Damage to Metro Railway, Calcutta on Account of Fire

410. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI MD. SALIM:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate loss in property on account of damage in Metro Railway in Calcutta on account of fire in October, 1995;

(b) whether the cause of the fire has been established;

(c) if not, by when the enquiry in this regard would be completed; and

(d) the safety measures proposed to be introduced in each bogey to prevent choking of passengers after blaze on running train in Metro in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) The approximate cost of damage to railway property in the incidents of fire in Metro Rail in October '95 has been assessed at Rs. 1.35 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The cause of fire on 9.10.1995 is being inquired into by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Metro Circle, whose report is awaited.

(d) (i) The stations are provided with air intake fans at both ends as also under platform exhaust and mid-point exhaust in the tunnel on either side of the stations to avoid suffocation.

(ii) Adequate fire fighting arrangements are made to put out fire.

Inauguration of full stretch running from Dum Dum to Tollygungc in Calcutta

411. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament invited at the recent inauguration of full stretch running from Dum Dum to Tollygunge of the Calcutta Metropolitan Railways;

(b) the criteria for inviting such MPs and former MPs; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred in connection with the inauguration ceremoney?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI):

(a) 1. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, M.P.
2. Dr. Debi Prosad Pal, M.P.
3. Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, M.P.
4. Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P.
5. Prof. Malini Bhattacharya, M.P.
6. Ku. Mamata Banerjee, M.P.
7. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, M.P.
8. Shri Priyaranjan Das Munshi, (former M.P.)

(b) Normally sitting and former Members of Parliament elected from constituencies in and adjoining areas or residing in the areas served by a railway line/project and persons associated with such projects are invited on such occasions.

(c) Rs. 10,000/- (approx.)

Speedy Disposal of Pension Claims

412. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government for speedy disposal of pension claims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to penalize those officers who are responsible for inordinate delays; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. The concerned Ministries and Departments from where a